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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL

I, DAVID PATRICK MAXWELL FYFE, hereby certify that the document annexed hereto and numbered D.647 is an official British Governmental document,

DPMF

~~a report of the United Nations,~~

~~an act or document of a committee set up for the investigation of war crimes,~~

~~a record or finding of a Tribunal of the United Nations,~~

within the meaning of Article 21 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal.

and a document made by a person in the employment of the British Government in the ordinary course of his duties, and that such person was in a position and under a duty to make all reasonable investigations relating to the subject matter thereof.

(signed) D. P. Maxwell Fyfe

(date) 10th January, 1946

(strike out and initial all words not applicable).

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
GB Exhibit 204
Filed Jan 15, 1946

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EXTRACT FROM A STATEMENT GIVEN BY SENHOR JOSE RENATO DE OLIVEIRA SILVA, SECOND OFFICER OF THE SHIP "ANTONICO" WHICH WAS TORPEDOED, SET AFIRE AND SUNK ON THE 28TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1942, ON THE COAST OF FRENCH GUIANA.

"JOSE RENATO DE OLIVEIRA SILVA, of Brazilian Nationality, married, twenty six years of age (26), son of MANOEL EUCLIDES DE OLIVEIRA SILVA e DONA OLEVINA DE OLIVEIRA SILVA, Second Pilot, matriculated by the Port Authorities of Rio de Janeiro, resident in that city, Avenida Sao Jeronimo, 795. After being sworn in, he was questioned by the head of the Inquiry Board as follows: "Where was he at the time the ship "Antonico" was attacked by the submarine?". He answered he was in the galley. When asked what he knew as regards the incident he answered that he was Second Officer of the ship "Antonico" of this city, and the property of the firm M.L. D'ALBUQUERQUE, which left this port on the ninth (9th) of September last, with the port of PARAMARIBO, DUTCH GUIANA, as destination; the ship "Antonico" being commanded by CAPITAO DE CABOTAGEM AMERICO DE MOREIRA NEVES; that the "Antonico" was coasting by various wood ports, the last one being in RIO OIAPOQUE, and then on to PARAMARIBO; that the voyage was running normally, until the 28th of the same month of September, when, at almost four ten, (4H10') finding himself on duty in the galley with the sailor JONAS BARBOSA, the witness heard a burst of gunfire, which drew his attention and he saw a luminous ball of fire, passing from starboard to portside, close to the galley of the "Antonico"; he immediately stopped the engines, and swung to port, in order to avoid that the "Antonico" should be hit again by another projectile. There were five more shots, but all missed their mark; The witness immediately realised that the "Antonico" was being attacked by an Axis submarine, due to the ship carrying material to an Allied Air Base; that the ship "Antoniao" was completely disarmed, including the crew; that after the first shots which missed their mark, the attack continued, hitting the "Antonico" in several places, and setting her alight in various parts, as the shots were luminous and incendiary; that the Captain of the "Antonico" at the moment of the attack was in bed; that the witness, seeing that the "Antonico" was on fire, gave orders to the sailor in charge of the steering wheel, who was with him, to go to his appointed place, in case of abandon ship; that the witness also went to his lifeboat No. 2 and found all the crew at their posts; the witness saw the Captain of the "Antonico" on deck, giving orders and directing abandon ship, when he spoke rapidly to the witness saying "I never thought that this would happen"; the witness continued on his way and gave orders to swing out lifeboat No. 2 for himself and his crew of 20, the word crew is used, but already the crew had diminished, having fallen as victims to the shots and splinters of the grenades of the aggressors; that the witness saw the dead on the deck of the "Antonico" as he and his crew tried to swing out their lifeboat; that the attack was fulminant, lasting almost 20 minutes; that the witness already in the lifeboat tried to get away from the side of the "Antonico" in order to avoid being dragged down by the same "Antonico" and also because she was the agressors target; that the night was dark, and it was thus difficult to see the submarine, but that the fire aboard the "Antonico" lit up the locality in which she was submerging, facilitating the enemy to see the two lifeboats trying to get away; that the enemy ruthlessly machine gunned the defenceless sailors in No. 2 lifeboat, in which the witness found himself, and killed the Second Pilot ARNALDO DE ANDRADE DE LIMA, and wounded three of the crew; that the witness gave orders to his company to throw themselves overboard, to save themselves from the bullets; in so doing, they were protected and out of sight behind the lifeboat, which was already filled with water; even so the lifeboat continued to be attacked. At that time the witness and his companions were about 20 metres in distance from the submarine, and on this occasion the witness saw her for the first time; that she was in the dark, and thus it was impossible for him to identify her; that at that time the witness was completely ignorant of the fate of the lifeboat commanded by the Captain of the "Antonico"; that the submarine immediately withdrew from the locality and submerged, after the "Antonico" in flames, disappeared; that from the start of the attack until the end of same, and the disappearance

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of the "Antonico" the time passed was more or less twenty (20) minutes; that it was not yet daylight, and the locality in darkness; that the witness decided to remain in the same locality until daylight; that this lifeboat was overflowing but having floats, it did not submerge and the witness and his companions were able to occupy her; that when daylight came, the witness saw the lifeboat commanded by the Captain of the "Antonico" about 50 metres away; that the other lifeboat was also overflowing, but also had floats, but the prow was missing, having been destroyed by a grenade; that only then was the witness obvious to the fact that the Captain of the "Antonico" had been killed with four others by a grenade which destroyed the prow of the lifeboat; that in that lifeboat there were seven (7) wounded men, and in the lifeboat of the witness, five of the crew were wounded.

I, Richard Long, Lieutenant Commander, R.N.V.R., certify that the above is an extract from a report in the possession of the British Admiralty, London.

Richard Long

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